

WE CLAIM

1. A section of a body of a vehicle comprising:

a flexible material outer skin that is tensed at least over one part of a frame of the vehicle, and

at least one mechanically moveable adjusting element, provided beneath or on an edge of the outer skin, enabling the outer skin to be deformed.

2. The section according to claim 1, wherein the flexible material outer skin has elastic properties.

3. The section according to claim 2, wherein the flexible material outer skin can absorb impact energy during an accident.

4. The section according to claim 1, wherein at least on one edge of the outer skin, a strip, which can be fastened to a component that is firmly attached to the body by a clip connection, is attached.

5. The section according to claim 4, wherein the strip is sewn onto the edge of the outer skin.

6. The section according to claim 4, wherein the strip is made of plastic.

7. The section according to claim 1, wherein the at least one adjusting element can be moved in a translatory manner, a rotary manner, or both translatory and rotary manners.

8. The section according to claim 1, wherein the at least one adjusting element is moved by an actuator with auxiliary power.

9. The section according to claim 1, wherein the at least one adjusting element is movable as a function of the vehicle speed.

10. The section according to claim 1, wherein the outer skin in a rear area of the vehicle can be deformed in such a way that it generates an aerodynamic negative lift similar to a rear spoiler.

11. The section according to claim 10, wherein the outer skin is made of an elastic material, and wherein the at least one adjusting element is seated eccentrically, has an elliptic cross-section, or both is seated eccentrically and has an elliptic cross-section and has the ability to deform the outer skin in the area of an end section of a tailgate in such a way that an aerodynamic negative lift is generated.

12. The section according to claim 10, wherein two swiveling adjusting elements are provided.

13. The section according to claim 9, wherein, on a moveable section of a first adjusting element, a second adjusting element is located.

14. The section according to claim 9, wherein the adjusting element forms a spoiler, and wherein the adjusting element and a surrounding area on a body side are covered with the flexible material outer skin.

15. The section according to claim 14, wherein the spoiler and the surrounding area on the body side are designed such that, regardless of the position of the spoiler, no marginal sections of the spoiler become visible in the flexible material outer skin.

16. The section according to claim 15, wherein the surrounding area on the body side is a conventional tailgate with a recess for the spoiler.

17. The section according to claim 16, wherein the spoiler forms at least partly a rear edge of the tailgate.

18. The section according to claim 17, wherein a taillight is integrated in the spoiler and the flexible material outer skin is recessed in an area of the taillight.

19. The section according to claim 14, wherein the flexible material outer skin has a magnetic coating.

20. The section according to claim 14, wherein the flexible material outer skin is additionally stretched across at least one rod which is mounted to the spoiler on one end.

21. The section according to claim 20, wherein the at least one rod takes on a bent shape which, depending on a spoiler position, stretches the flexible material outer skin in a certain shape.

22. The section according to claim 21, wherein the at least one rod is arranged in an impression in the surrounding area on the body side when the spoiler is in a resting position.

23. The section according to claim 21, wherein the other end of the at least one rod is connected to a slide which can be displaced on the surrounding area on the body side.

24. The section according to claim 23, wherein the slide is located in an impression in the surrounding area on the body side.

25. The section according to claim 20, wherein the at least one rod, to the left and to the right, forms a lateral extension of a rear edge of the spoiler.

26. The section according to claim 25, characterized in that the at least one rod mounted to the spoiler is one piece.

27. The section according to claim 20, wherein the rod has a low-friction coating.

28. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is a rocker panel of the vehicle which can be deformed by the at least one adjusting element in such a way that aerodynamics of the vehicle are improved while driving.

29. The section according to claim 28, wherein the at least one adjusting element is a pivotal adjusting element that is seated displaceably about an axis beneath the section, and wherein the axis runs essentially in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

30. The section according to claim 29, wherein the adjusting element contains different radial extensions around the axis.

31. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section forms a flap on the vehicle which can be opened or closed by the at least one adjusting element.

32. The section according to claim 31, wherein the section contains a slot which can be widened to create an opening.

33. The section according to claim 31, wherein the flap is formed by two sections which adjoin each other and can be moved apart on a joint so that an opening is created.

34. The section according to claim 33, wherein both sections can be connected to each other on the joint through a zipper.

35. The section according to claim 33, wherein both sections can be connected to each other on the joint through a clip connection.

36. The section according to claim 33, wherein, along edges of the sections, a rigid strip is attached to at least one of the sections, and wherein the rigid strip can be displaced by at least one adjusting element.

37. The section according to claim 1, wherein the outer skin is the outer skin of a tailgate, and wherein it is possible to vary a length of said tailgate in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle if the rear window is shifted in longitudinal direction by an adjusting element.

38. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is a front or rear component of the vehicle which can be modified in its aerodynamic shape by at least one swiveling adjusting element.

39. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is an underbody of the vehicle which can be lowered with the at least one adjusting element.

40. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is a single-piece section that is a fender as well as an outside door panel of a door, and wherein the door presents the at least one adjusting element.

41. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is an outside door panel, and wherein a height of an upper edge of an actual door body can be varied through the at least one adjusting element.

42. The section according to claim 1, wherein the section is a fender and a wheel well attached both to a chassis and a frame of the vehicle.

43. The section according to claim 1, wherein the outer skin forms a vehicle top which can be displaced through the at least one adjusting element by way of a rear edge in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

44. The section according to claim 1, wherein the outer skin can be deformed by the at least one adjusting element in such a way that, depending on a position of the at least one adjusting element, the outer skin covers at least one of a headlight and a radiator grill to a different degree or covers different partial areas of at least one of the headlight and the radiator grill.

45. The section according to claim 44, wherein the outer skin is one of at least two outer skin sections which cover the headlight or the radiator grill to a different degree or different partial areas of the headlight or of the radiator grill.

46. The section according to claim 1, wherein at least one lighting device is attached beneath the outer skin and at least partly shines through the outer skin.

47. The section according to claim 46, wherein the at least one lighting device is directly attached to the outer skin.

48. The section according to claim 1, wherein the at least one adjusting element is a plug element which can be plugged, in an easily detachable manner, into at least one socket that is firmly attached to the body of the vehicle and forms a part of the vehicle frame, across which an elastic section is stretched.

49. The section according to claim 2, wherein the flexible material outer skin is a flexible textile planar formation which is coated with a coating at least on a visible side.

50. The section according to claim 49, wherein the textile planar formation is a knitted fabric or other fabric.

51. The section according to claim 49, wherein the textile planar formation includes PES or PEN fibers.

52. The section according to claim 51, wherein the textile planar formation also contains fibers that can also serve as actuators, sensors, or both actuators and sensors.

53. The section according to claim 49, wherein the coating has an adhesive film, an aromatic intermediate layer, and an aliphatic final layer.

54. The section according to claim 49, wherein the coating offers UV protection.

55. The section according to claim 49, wherein the coating is waterproof.

56. The section according to claim 49, wherein the coating is magnetic.

57. The section according to claim 49, wherein the coating looks similar to a painted sheet metal surface.

58. The section according to claim 49, wherein the flexible material outer skin is pre-stretched.

59. A process of changing a configuration of a section of a body of a vehicle having a flexible material outer skin that is tensed at least over one part of a frame of the

vehicle, comprising mechanically moving at least one adjusting element provided beneath or on an edge of the outer skin so as to deform the outer skin.